

RECORDING OF PROCEEDINGS

Wyoming Board of Agriculture
August 19, 2011
Wyoming State Fair, Douglas, Wyoming

Present: Shaun Sims, President
John Hansen, Vice President
Jana Ginter
Jim Hodder
John Moore
Alison Lass
Bryan Brost
Jim Price, Jr.
Patrick Zimmerer
Jason Fearneyhough, Director
Frank Galey, UW Dean of College of Agriculture and Natural Resources

Absent: Bridget Williams

Called to order at 8:35 a.m. and roll was taken. A quorum was established.

Resignation from the Board

The letter of resignation from Dalin Winters was read. **Jana Ginter made a motion to accept Dalin Winters' letter of resignation. The motion was seconded by Jim Price. All voted in favor. Motion carried.**

Agenda

John Hansen made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Alison Lass. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes

John Hansen made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 12, 2011 conference call. The motion was seconded by Patrick Zimmerer. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Intern Presentation

Rebecca Piroutek explained to the Board some of the projects she worked on this summer as a media intern with the Department. She expressed her thanks for their continued support of the program and how much she has grown this summer.

100th State Fair – 2012

Jason introduced Milward Simpson and Milward explained the responsibilities of State Parks and Historical Sites. He also talked about a panel of folks to bring in some new members to enhance the State Fair for the future. Jason said Milward has been instrumental in the preparation for the 100th Celebration.

NASS Update

Todd Ballard joined the Board to talk about the crops and provide them with the most current handouts. He said that hay is lagging behind, but most crops look good. Only seven of all their rain stations are below normal. Grasshoppers are bad in some areas and not too bad in others.

EPA Update

Jim Martin talked about the EPA and how they are dedicated to the job Congress has given to them. The national plan for ozone standards is being developed. They can only weigh the science and not the economics, etc. on the effect of the standards. Jim said he would like to be invited to future board meetings so he gets a better feel and understanding of how decisions made in Washington affect the ag community. He said EPA can talk to headquarters about the effects from Congress. With Congress trying to define what is and is not "Waters of the United States", he encouraged ag folks to participate in the process. Jason thanked Jim for coming up and especially thanked Jennifer for being such a great resource to ag folks in Wyoming. Jason asked Jim Martin if it would be possible for NOWA to make the presentation about the bowl effect made at the Region 8 meeting, at a future board meeting. Jim said yes, that would be possible. He said EPA is not going to set numeric standards in Wyoming. Shaun encouraged Jim to allow this effort to continue to be a grassroots effort. Another concern Shaun express is the continually moving target with regards to water quality.

RHAP

Lincoln County

Justin Williams presented for them, as Brenda was not able to be on the call. **Patrick made a motion to approve the Lincoln County application in the amount of \$20,000 contingent upon an approximate line item justification in the budget for the contractual services before the release of funds. The motion was seconded by John Hansen. All voted in favor. Motion carried.**

Washakie County

Tori was on the phone to review their application and answer any questions. **Alison made a motion to approve the Washakie County application in the amount of \$20,000. The motion was seconded by Jim Price. All voted in favor. Motion carried.**

Sheridan County

Carrie was on the phone to review their application and answer any questions. **Alison made a motion to approve the Sheridan County application in the amount of \$20,000. The motion was seconded by Jim Hodder. All voted in favor. Motion carried.**

Lower Wind River

Cathy was on the phone to review their applications and answer any questions. **Jim Price made a motion to approve the Diamond X Ranch Monitoring Project for \$16,360. The motion was seconded by Patrick. All voted in favor. Motion carried. Patrick made a motion to approve the Cameron Ranch Monitoring Project for \$4,090. The motion was seconded by Bryan Brost. All voted in favor. Motion carried.**

CRM

Larry Bentley provided an overview of the Coordinated Resource Management Plan. There are 8 million acres in the State of Wyoming under a CRM. Green Mountain Allotment and specifically, the West Antelope Allotment is proposed for CRM assistance. Two meetings have occurred to date. The MOU is not in place yet, but the Attorney General is currently reviewing it. Larry encouraged the WDA to push it through in order to get as much public comment as possible. Larry encouraged the Board members to attend Mediation Day October 19, 2011 in Casper, which has more information on CRMs.

Water Quality Interim Reports

Crook County

Jana Ginter made a motion to accept the Crook County Natural Resource District's interim report due July 30, 2011 and received on July 1, 2011, which fulfills their contract requirement for the Belle Fourche River Watershed Plan Implementation Project. The motion was seconded by Jim Price. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Laramie County

Alison Lass made a motion to accept the Laramie County Conservation District's interim report due on July 30, 2011 and received on July 15, 2011, which fulfills their contract requirement for the Crow Creek Sampling & Pole Mountain Implementation Project. The motion was seconded by John Moore. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Star Valley Conservation District

Jim Price, Jr. made a motion to accept the Star Valley Conservation District's interim report due on July 30, 2011 and received on July 8, 2011, which fulfills their contract requirement for the Salt River Water Quality Project. The motion was seconded by John Hansen. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Sweetwater County Conservation District

Bryan Brost made a motion to accept the Sweetwater County Conservation District's interim report due on July 30, 2011 and received on July 20, 2011, which fulfills their contract requirement for Sampling and Analysis for the Bitter/Killpecker Watershed Project. The motion was seconded by John Hansen. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Steve Ferrell - Policy Advisor in the Governor's Office for Wildlife and Endangered Species

Wild Horses

There has been some litigation over the gathers. When BLM removed sterilization from their Record of Decision, the judge dismissed the suit. The BLM is trying their best to follow the consent decree of 2003. The decree expires in 2013. There is on-going discussion of a few folks affected by the wild horses about the renewal and/or changes to the consent decree. Currently they are meeting quarterly and would like to include more stakeholders in the group. Steve has put together an analysis and about 75% of the areas will be over their AMLs by December of this year.

Wolves

The State of Wyoming and the USFWS have reached an agreement on the wolves. The state must maintain a sustainable population by maintaining 10 breeding pairs and 100 wolves not in Yellowstone. The rest of the 5 breeding pairs and 50 wolves will be maintained in the park and the Indian reservation.

If the pairs or number of wolves dips below the total 15 pairs and 150 wolves, the park and Indian reservation will be responsible for those losses; not the state.

The trophy hunting season will run from October 15 through the end of February each year. The phrase “Aggressive Management” has been asked to be removed from the statutes. This whole plan needs to be approved by the legislature. There is also a request to disallow the Game and Fish to increase the size of The Greater Management Area. Terms of the lethal take permit were changed from expiring on December 31 of the issuance year to forty-five days from issuance. Monitoring by the state will continue following the five-year USFWS monitoring, which should allow Wyoming to have data to prevent the re-listing of the wolf.

Living Legacy

Patrick talked about the issues with the plaques and stones, as well as the trees dying. Muff talked about some of these issues. The matter was tabled.

Recreational Use Model (RUM)

Lindsay Patterson presented an overview of Recreational Use Model. There are two categories: 1 – Primary and 2-Secondary. Between October 1 and April 30, all waters in the state are considered secondary. EPA asked for a Use Attainability Analysis (UAA) and didn’t want the separation of the waters to primary and secondary use. The rules approved by the Governor in 2007, are still in limbo. DEQ has been developing this RUM since 2009.

Update from Nephi Cole

Suite Water

This is a GIS data portal to develop natural resource plans. The program is available to all conservation districts in the state and soon to the Department through an MOU. He demonstrated the program and how easily all watershed information can be accessed in one place by connecting to the various federal and UW sites.

Pathways to Water Quality

This is an on-going project along the Platte River at State Fair Park. The purpose is to keep any water or drainage of liquids/water from entering the Platte River.

NRCS Update

Xavier Montoya joined the meeting providing an update to the members on the NRCS programs. He was very pleased with the dollars brought into the state for on-the-ground applications to help producers this past year. He also provided them with a handout.

Livestock Board Update

Dr. Logan introduced Leanne Stevenson as the new Executive Director.

Dr. Logan said that two herds are still under quarantine for Brucellosis. Outside of the surveillance area, elk are migrating to places they don’t normally go. The issue is a concern for cattle and Brucellosis exposure. The feed grounds are still under questions, but if there were no feed grounds, the problem of

Brucellosis would be much greater than we have now. Absentee landowners and landowners not allowing hunter are both problems.

Trichomoniasis is still a problem. He said the numbers up from last year and it was suggested there be a one-time test of every bull in the state and Dr. Logan said that until this is done, they will never be able to find the pockets of trichomoniasis cases.

Herpes Neurology virus was a problem earlier in the year, with a confirmed case in the Buffalo area there were three cases required quarantining, with no additional cases confirmed.

USDA published their traceability rules about a week ago and said the rules are going to affect the cattle and horse industry.

WLB was authorized to send out their import rules last week and October 7 is the deadline for public comment.

The 100 head of horses that were confiscated from Lincoln County have all been adopted out after being cared for by Livestock Board.

WLB should have two bills for the upcoming session. The bills will be on livestock traceability and one on the traceability for outbreaks such as Brucellosis.

Leanne Stevenson encouraged the members to provide input on the Chapter 8 rules. She is looking forward to continuing working with WDA.

AgriFuture Update

The planning team is hoping to encourage students from UW and CSU to attend since it is being in Laramie. The cost will probably be kept around \$100.

FSA Update

Gregor Goertz was a guest of the board and he said CRP payments should go out on time. He also said that all five disaster programs will expire in October. FSA was able to help out the counties on the emergency disaster. Crook County is the only one authorized for disaster relief in 2011. The rest of the requests are on the waiting list. With the major budget cuts for his agency, he said they are looking at a staff reduction of 8%. He said they will also have to cut operating expenses by 10%. There are 100 FSA offices – nationally – to be closed and they will probably have to reduce their budget by another 10% in 2013.

Issues and Updates

Living Legacy

The board feels the drip line needs to be in place before the trees are planted to keep them alive. Shaun Sims challenged the members to get out there and find sponsors for 2012.

Changes to the October 11 Meeting

Jim Hodder made a motion to have a face-to-face meeting in conjunction with the AgriFuture. The motion was seconded by John Hansen. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Cindy Garretson-Weibel said the WBC will have their ribbon cutting for their new building on the midway tomorrow and she encouraged everyone to attend.

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Shaun Sims, President

Date